
BREEDERS' UPDATE

April 22, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
STUD PRESENT **EDITION 80** OF
THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

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Sires Stakes Update to Stakeholders!

Brad Reid

There have been many questions recently surrounding the return to racing and what that will look like has gotten a little clearer in the last 24 hours with the Government announcement followed by RITA's draft Racing Calendar for the remainder of the season.

Yesterday's announcement from Jacinda Ardern to move to Level 3 in a week's time came with the caveat that we will hopefully move to Level 2 in a further two weeks' time.

We will be able to resume more routine work but we must still continue to operate using Government and industry recommended hygiene and distancing measures.

MPI have advised that vets and farriers will be able to resume routine work when we move to Level 3, whilst maintaining hygiene measures to minimise risk of transmission of COVID-19 for more information read [here](#).

It is important as an industry that we are compliant and follow Government guidelines to show that we are operating and utilising good management practices. Detailed information on the proposed changes on moving to Alert Level 3 can be found [here](#)

Another industry Stakeholder who has been watching developments closely is the NZ Sires Stakes Board.

Many questions have been asked in recent times as to what will happen to the series impacted by the Covid lockdown.

I spoke with the Sires Stakes Board Chair, Cleland Murdoch last week to clarify some issues and get some information to breeders, owners and trainers.

As you can appreciate there is a little bit of water to go under the bridge just yet, but planning and discussions are underway with the organisation.

Where the onus will fall on HRNZ to provide returns to the lower and middle ends of the racing population with limited stake money on offer, the Sires Stakes are committed to fulfilling the nine individual Series they had either commenced or were still to race in the 19/20 season.

It presents a unique opportunity for the Sires Stakes to be the springboard back to racing in the new season with the best stakes on offer, and the crème de le crème of our product being beamed into the living rooms of Australasian punters.



Big stakes draw the best horses and the 3YO Sires Stakes on Cup Day is arguably one of the best in the country!

Getting this right is of top priority to everyone involved.

“HRNZ have given us their view with respect to when racing may return, so that then raises the whole issue of how is that going to effect the Sires Stakes Board?” said Murdoch.

“The entire 2020/21 calendar is going to RITA by the end of May and that will then enable some financial forecasting to be completed.

“We intend to complete the current series of racing, alongside the series which is programmed for next season meaning races that were scheduled for 2YO’s will obviously have to be run as 3YO races next year.

“We already have the funding for the Sires Stakes contributions in place which will allow us to run these races in the first part of next season,” said Murdoch.

This does present some opportunities for those who have paid up for the series that had a slower to mature type horse. Depending on the timing it could also see a deeper pool of horses now contesting each division.

Fitting in the remainder of the races will be a challenge however with heats scheduled at various venues around the country such as Forbury now unlikely to take place with the limited venues in which racing will occur. The below Sires Stakes races are those that were programmed and still to be run prior to the developments of Covid19;

Pacing Races

Garrard’s 2YO Sires Stakes Series 37

- Heat 2 NZ Metro
- Heat 3 Waikato BOP
- Final (G1) NZ Metro
- Silver NZ Metro

Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Series 37

- Heat 2 NZ Metro
- Heat 3 Auckland
- Heat 4 NZ Metro
- Fillies Championship (G1) Auckland
- Fillies Silver Auckland

NZB Standardbred Yearling Sales Section

- 2YO Open (L) NZ Metro
- 2YO Fillies (L) Auckland

Nevele R Fillies Series

- Heat 5 Forbury
- Heat 6 NZ Metro
- Heat 7 Waikato BOP
- Final (G1) / Consolation NZ Metro



Trotting Races

Haras des Trotteurs 3YO Trotters Sires Stakes Series 36

- Championship (G2), Auckland
- Silver, Auckland

PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales Race Series 28

- 3YO Trotters Final (L), NZ Metro
- 3YO Trotters Silver, NZ Metro

Haras des Trotteurs 2YO Sires Stakes Series 37

- Prelude 2 Ashburton
- Championship (G2) NZ Metro
- Silver NZ Metro

NZB Standardbred Yearling Sales Section

- 2YO Trot (L) NZ Metro

The who, what, when and how to the above is what is still by and large up in the air.

“As you are well aware, programming and placement of races is highly difficult,” said Murdoch.

“We’ve got an obligation to our participants who have paid up, an obligation to our sponsors and an overriding obligation to the industry as a whole.

“What we can state categorically is that the funds for each series is separately funded by pre payments and sponsors commitments etc.

“Each series funds have been ring fenced, those monies are available for those races when they are put on, and those funds under no circumstances will be simply added to reserves as one or two people have suggested to me,” he said.

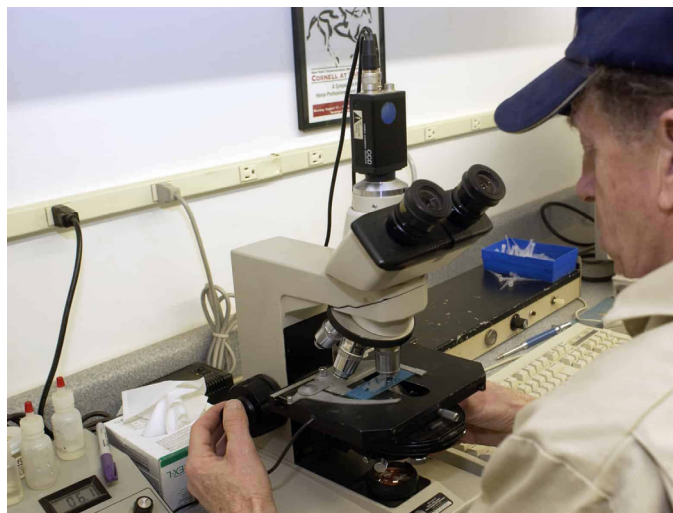
The answer was encouraging, but appreciably modest given the knowledge to hand at such time.

“We have committed to running those races and it is our intention to run them, but the unknown position is how those races are going to look in terms of a stake.

Our contribution will be there but the group Race subsidies will be under the microscope and some serious decisions are going to have to be made. The landscape is not going to look like it did in the short term,” he said.

Murdoch stated that a full press release will be made available as soon as possible.

“All trainers and owners need to have sufficient time obviously to prepare horses for these races, alongside our sponsors we will ensure we get feedback and give our participants the relevant early information that they would need to be able to do so,” he said.



Stallion fertility should be under the microscope in NZ!

NUMBERS, STATISTICS AND VALUABLE INFORMATION

Brad Reid

They say in life it's not about the destination, rather the journey itself.

Who doesn't love a detour on a roadie?

What started out as a simple review of the trotting stallions available by frozen semen and their ability to produce live foals took me down a few unintended rabbit holes.

Let's keep it relevant and just say I broke stride.

Being an amateur researcher at best, I wasn't able to get back down and trotting.

More of the curious type, I ended up somewhere between the advertising hoarding and the outside rail and was promptly pulled up.

I have every intention of finishing what I started: however my findings, if you can call them that, are no less relevant to an astute audience of breeders and industry participants, even if they are incomplete. Perhaps the naïve view has some merits?

Please read on.

In the current breeding climate, where the number of mares served is being challenged by a variety of factors, it would seem that:



1. Retention is actually our best and most cost-efficient strategy at this point and;
2. It is imperative that we maximise the best intentions of our current customers, so to speak, by minimizing any wastage in the breeding chain. That is from conception to foaling, to produce a horse to enter the system and one day appearing on a race track.

For a mating to produce a racehorse, we need to start with what happens at the front end of the process.

Therefore, it is important that we engage and educate breeders with accurate and relevant information and/or data to allow them the opportunity to make informed decisions when it comes to breeding their mares.

There are two partners in this little process: a mare in good reproductive health, and a stallion producing bullets that hit the target. Let's deal with the mares another day.

We know for a fact that frozen semen produces lower conception rates than fresh or chilled semen for a number of good technological and biological reasons.

Just as we know for a fact that certain semen bases and equine vet clinics get a higher percentage of mares in foal compared to others with chilled and frozen semen. Well we actually don't know officially who is good at getting out mares in foal, do we?

But the studs do!

This is why studs like Woodlands and Alabar and NRS offer 20% discounts on service fees for choosing their 'preferred' semen bases for the place of service.

Makes sense right?

The kicker here is that to determine success in the breeding process, you are merely reliant on a conception taking place.

The contractual obligation between breeder and the stud providing fresh or chilled semen is for the most part payable on receipt of a 42-day positive test.

That is, did the service produce a viable foetus at 42 days or not?

It's a fairly simple 'yes' or 'no' objective measurement. Right?

When it comes to measuring (or rather not measuring) stallion fertility in New Zealand, the same cannot be said.

With less than 2,300 mares being bred from, it is something the breeding sector needs to be able to accurately report.

The problem is when data is rubbish in, it is invariably rubbish being distributed out.

We don't want that, and neither do you.

We need an overhaul on what we are currently reporting and recording if we are to get a true picture of whose spunk is junk.

What we have now is an inaccurate measurement due to a process that is overcomplicated, archaic and technically speaking asks the wrong questions.

The reporting of stallion 'fertility' in our studbook is done on the HRNZ Infohorse system under the guise of 'live foal percentage'.

Better put, was there or was there not a live foal produced as a result of the breeding decision and notified to HRNZ. Wait a moment, let's think about that. We measure a stallion's success a year after a breeding, and if the breeder says there was a foal she/he wants to register!

This measurement lets everybody down, whether it be the breeder, the stallion or the stud involved. I want to expose some light on the current situation in hope we can see some changes.

I ask the question, do we need to put greater emphasis on conceptions, the same way they report and record stallion fertility in North America.

Being the novice I have asked a few people for their views.

It seems that evaluating fertility by motility, DNA, abnormalities etc does not really work from the scientific view. Some stallions that look OK under a microscope can be sub-fertile and vice versa. And, effective testing is not easily available.

Someone then said to me lets measure every cycle that a mare is served. "Then the per cycle rate of conception and the overall conception rate would be there to make informed decisions."

But hold the mare for a moment: what about those who try to go early in the season, for good reason? Recording each cycle for a problem mare could badly and unfairly deflate a stallion's performance stats.

Recording each cycle could be done online within Infohorse's breeding programme each day. But and it is a very big 'but', would it improve the quality of the data on productivity of a stallion? Perhaps not.

Currently a stallion is only recorded as having served a mare once, and the only chance of a mare showing multiple serves in the system is if she is served by a different stallion in the same season.

HRNZ is heavily dependent on the studs to accurately and honestly report all services, not necessarily multiple services, but just that services happened in the first place.



The current process is that a stud pays a fee to HRNZ to record each service. If there is no return for a 'not in foal' after one, two or three cycle then the fertility of the stallion is enhanced a year later.

I've been told while researching this dark 'art' that in times past with manual systems some stallions had their fertility enhanced significant by the denominator being somewhat lets just say lower than it actually was when the foal returns were filed in February.

If you had a stallion with fertility issues known only to you the stud, what incentive is there to tell the truth? In some cases it would be easier to record nothing. You pay nothing and the stallions 'fertility' looks better at year later.

Fertility skulduggery has been going on since the arabs were breeding mares in the desert and this is nothing new. With frozen I think the issues become even more magnified.

The odds are already drastically reduced anyhow, the costs are higher and therefore the accurate reporting around the fertility and quality of the semen becomes even more imperative to the breeder when making the decision to begin with.

There are two ways for HRNZ to be made aware of any silly buggers. Firstly, breeders can rigidly check their mares on the Infohorse system to see whether an official service has been lodged. Or secondly, for the rules to be changed to record each breeding cycle, but that is potentially unfair to the stallions as it blames them for all conception issues, including those of the mare.

HRNZ are not clairvoyants and are not responsible for guessing what did or did not take place.

For the most part, the studs are excellent with their data capture and returns.

The cost of breeding to frozen is significant but so too is a mating to fresh and chilled. Even more valuable than money when it comes to the breeding season is time. Failure to produce a foal is a significant cost to all breeders.

There are commercial advantages and financial incentives to not report a failed service.

So, lets get back to our opening. One of the first glaring holes in the current system is to measure stallion fertility when foals are registered.

Lets for a moment think about recording in Infohorse through the stud programme a conception. Is it that simple?

Studs invoice their clients on a conception for those paying of a positive test. For those on live foal payment it should be an easy software modification to add a checkbox to tick "42 days in foal".



At this point the stallion has done his job and the mare hers.

If after this magical date the mare loses the foal, the foal dies at birth or a breeder simply decides not to register it the stallion's public performance is not diminished.

Just to be clear under the antiquated measurements in the current system if a mare slips a conception or loses a foal before registration the stallions stats are impacted.

Hope you're not confused. It's just another anomaly that perhaps we need to tidy up if we hope to get it right, which I think we agree we do.

So perhaps lets think about recording in Infohorse from this season whether at 42 days a breeding resulted in a conception. Simple?

Another failing in the system and a glaring waste of efficiency is the recording of no-returns.

Where fresh and chilled semen is concerned, a stud knows at the conclusion of the breeding season whether a mare is in foal or it has missed. For the most part anyway. After all, it's how they invoice and get paid.

Therefore what logical reason is there that we cannot list at time of mare returns those that they know for a fact have missed getting in foal.

It would save the sending of a letter and the breeder being charged a \$1 to return a form saying the mare was not in foal.

It would also save the potential whereby we have seasons which there are dozens of no-returns outstanding from several seasons ago.

There is also no current system to chase up these historical lapses.

It is imperative that breeders have access to accurate information which allows them to make an informed breeding decision, at the outset of the breeding timeline. There are commercial advantages and financial incentives to not report a failed service.



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REVISED DRAFT 19/20 RACING CALENDAR

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER YOUR SUBMISSION](#)

The RITA Dates Committee invites all racing clubs and Recognised Industry Organisations (RIOs) to provide feedback on the revised draft 19/20 Racing Dates Calendar.

The draft calendar for consultation features greyhound racing commencing on 11 May, harness racing on 29 May and thoroughbred racing beginning 3 July. The indicative dates for the resumption of New Zealand racing is subject to meeting relevant COVID-19 Alert Level restrictions.

A responsible return to racing

As you know, all New Zealand racing was suspended last month as a result of the escalating impact of COVID-19 on the racing industry and reflecting Government Alert Level 4 restrictions. While we currently remain under Level 4 restrictions, RITA and the three racing codes have begun initial exploration of a racing calendar to enable a responsible resumption to racing as soon as it is possible to do so.

The RITA Dates Committee, who determine the Annual Dates Calendar, recognise clubs, RIOs and industry participants require significant notice in order to prepare animals for a return to racing and therefore it is releasing, for consultation, a revised draft calendar for the remainder of the 19/20 racing season.

The draft calendar remains subject to Government direction on the response to COVID-19 and the necessary requirements to enable the resumption of racing and should be considered as an indicative calendar only and is subject to change.

The draft calendar is intended to support industry measures to restrict travel, minimise interactions and keep all participants safe. All venues during this time would be closed to the public.

The draft 19/20 racing calendar for May, June and July is attached and a high level summary of the proposed amendments and assumptions around the resumption of racing is listed below. One important aspect of a return to racing will be our collective effort as an industry to keep costs down and to minimise participant travel given assumed COVID restrictions. To support this, RITA has recommended racing only at venues that are connected to fibre for broadcasting up to 31 July. This maximises existing investment in venues for the presentation of meetings and will deliver significant industry savings.

The Dates Committee appreciates that racing clubs and RIOs will also want to plan for the 2020/21 season and while RITA is working on a revised calendar with the codes, we won't be in a position to send that out for consultation until the middle of May. The three codes however have commenced planning what their pattern of racing may look like for those first few months and will share that with you soon, keeping in mind a consultation process must be carried out by the RITA Dates Committee before the racing calendar can be confirmed.

If your club or organisation wishes to provide feedback on the revised DRAFT 19/20 calendar for May, June and July, please click here to provide your submission by 4pm on 28 April. Any additional queries should be sent to James Bowden, Senior Advisor Racing and Sport by email at james.bowden@tab.co.nz.

Please remember, this revised calendar is provided as a draft as we move through the consultation process. Meeting dates should not be considered confirmed until a betting licence is issued. We expect the calendar to be finalised and distributed by 4 May.

- Aim to resume racing on 29 May
- Amended draft calendar has 37 meetings at four venues
- Pre COVID-19 calendar had 36 meetings at 10 venues in the same period
- Racing restricted to three regions (North, Canterbury, Southland) with travel of participants restricted to their regions

Edward Renell | RITA DATES CHAIR

MAY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Addington	30 Invercargill trots
31 Cambridge	1	2	3	4	5	6
JUNE 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4 Auckland Night	5 Addington	6 Invercargill trots
7	8	9	10	11 Cambridge Night	12 Addington	13 Invercargill trots
14 Addington	15	16	17	18 Auckland Night	19 Addington	20 Invercargill Trots
21 Addington	22	23	24	25 Cambridge Night	26 Addington	27 Invercargill Trots
28 Addington	29	30	1	2	3	4
JULY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Auckland Night	2 Invercargill trots	3 Riccarton Addington Night	4 Te Rapa Awapuni
5 Addington	6	7	8 Cambridge Night	9 Invercargill trots	10 Wanganui Addington Night	11 Pukekohe Riccarton
12 Addington	13	14	15 Auckland Night	16 Invercargill trots	17 Southland Addington Night	18 Te Rapa Awapuni
19 Addington	20	21	22 Cambridge Night	23 Invercargill trots	24 Wanganui Addington Night	25 Pukekohe Riccarton
26 Addington	27	28	29 Auckland Night	30 Invercargill trots	31 Awapuni Addington Night	1

Horse Flights Should Return Soon

Michael Guerin

Industry experts are confident horse flights to Australia should be able to return in the next month.

But New Zealand Bloodstock airfreight manager Greg Northcott says it could take longer for anything like normal equine flight services to return.

NZB Airfreight and IRT are New Zealand's two major flyers of horses but both have been unable to offer those services since mid March when it was announced New Zealand was going into Covid-19 alert level four.

One of the last horses to be flown out of the country was Etah James, who was flown to Sydney by NZB airfreight and at her first start there won the Sydney Cup.

Since then horses have been unable to fly even though the export of livestock is deemed an essential service.

"The problem isn't the horses flying it is our professional grooms who have to go with them," explains Northcott.

"We use three carriers to fly horses to Australia and depending on the flight the grooms might be in normal seating, like in the upstairs compartment in a 747-400 or the could be sitting right up the front quite close to the pilots in a 767.

"So the companies we fly with are reluctant to expose their pilots to the grooms, or anybody else, at a time like this and we have to respect that." So even if we can arrange for grooms to fly with the horses and not have to actually leave the plane in Australia, or to take it a step further we were willing to fly them there and get them to self-isolate for 14 days before they come back, we still need approval from the companies we fly with.

As the country is still at Alert Level 4, it is paramount that travel and contact is reduced by everyone to slow down the spread of COVID 19.

"But we are working on ways to do that as safely as possible for everybody and I think we are getting closer.

"So we will keep working with the authorities and the carriers and, in my opinion, I think we can be back flying horses in May." But Northcott says that may not be the full schedule of flights NZB airfreight is used to supplying.

"I think we might get flights to one city going before the other and that could even be a charter flight rather than our regular scheduled flights.

"But I think we should have access to Australia inside a month."



That will be a relief to a variety of industry participants who need horses not only flown to Australia but vice versa.

There are yearlings sold at sales in recent months in both countries who need to join new stables in the other, broodmares heading both ways as well as racehorses who have been sold and are ready for export.

And of course some precious cargo including horses who competed at The Championships in Sydney, with group one winners like Sherwood Forest and The Bostonian to come home when the first flight is available.

Most of the harness horses who competed over the Australian summer returned before the lockdown, with the major exception of Victoria Oaks winner Dr Susan.

"So if people have horses they need to get to Australia I'd suggest they get in touch with us and we can keep them up to date on the options as they unfold."

The Bull is Back!

Champion harness racing pacer Chicago Bull is back!

The Bettor's Delight gelding won last night at Gloucester Park in his first race since June 2019.

Seven-year-old Chicago Bull was in New Zealand in October 2018 when he was badly injured after he flipped over backwards and fractured eight bones in his wither region in a freak stable accident, the day after impressively winning at Alexandra Park. At the time he was the favourite for the New Zealand Trotting Cup.

Back in Australia and recovered, trainer Gary Hall Sr had given Chicago Bull several starts in 2019 (winning three of them) before a leg injury curtailed his racing career once again.

Healthy again, Chicago Bull was given a long slow build up before last night's race, with the only worry being that the race would not get off the ground with low numbers nominated.

"He's as ready to go as I can have him. He really needs racing now, so I hope they have enough runners to run the race," he told Adam Hamilton during the week.

Chicago Bull had to do a fair amount of work in the running last night to win the race, but he did it comfortably at the end holding on to beat a fast finishing El Jacko by half a neck.

[Watch the video replay here.](#)

Ex Kiwi Cash N Flow is red hot!

ANOTHER week, another sub-1min50sec mile win for Cash N Flow.

The former All Stars' gelding made in it three wins on end and 22 wins from 56 starts when he thrashed his free-for-all rivals again at Menangle last night (Saturday).

Driver Luke McCarthy took him to the front and gave nothing else a chance, roaring away to win by 13.6m over stablemate Cruz with My Field Marshal third.

Cash N Flow paced a 1min49.7sec mile. He's broken 1min50sec winning his past three runs.

"He's a dead-set miler and even though he's that bit below our best horses, he's so hard to beat at this level," McCarthy said.

"He's been drawing inside My Field Marshal and it's probably been the difference. His stakemoney is getting up so, he might be outside him next time and it'll be much harder.

"We'll certainly just keep him to mile racing from now on." [Watch the video replay here.](#)

Miracle Mile winner tucked away

MIRACLE Mile winner King Of Swing won't be back in action until August.

And it's likely to be similar with Craig Cross' other stable star, Alta Orlando.

The pair were being set for Queensland winter raids, but Covid-19 caused most of the Brisbane features to be scrapped.

"It gives us a chance to give them a longer break now," Luke McCarthy said.

"It's hard to know how the rest of the year will play out, but given there's no big majors in Brisbane, we'll bring them back to race in August and see if things are back to normal for a Victoria Cup in October."

The obvious target is the Sydney Inter Dominion in November/December.

NSW officials have insisted the Inter Dominion will go ahead, but stopped short of confirming full details, which is to be expected given the climate of uncertainty.



Sire Representation Strengthens 2020 All Age Sale

A strong line up of 28 sires available to the New Zealand breeding industry feature throughout New Zealand Bloodstock's largest standardbred breeding stock sale, the 2020 All Age Sale to be conducted in May.

Superstar stallions have lit up racetracks on both sides of the Tasman this season and buyers purchasing from the Sale will have access to an online catalogue offered through NZB's subsidiary gavelhouse.com Standardbred.

The catalogue is bountiful with proven, emerging and first season sires, including 21 pacing and seven trotting stallions accounting for 148 lots offered.

Freshman Crops

Three first season sires will be introduced into the market, giving buyers the opportunity to secure the stock of worldly performers.

A champion son of Somebeachsomewhere, Downbytheseaside was the Dan Patch 2017 Three-Year-Old Pacer of the Year, a multiple record breaker in USA and the equal fastest two-year-old in history pacing 1.49. With career earnings surpassing \$2 million, this freshman sire will offer 35 weanlings on account of Woodland's Stud.

The virtue of patience was once again applied to see the now three-year-old presented at the races on the back of some good trial form, having won a Workout at Methven leading to her debut at Rangiora.

Standing at Alabar Farms, four-time Group One winner Vincent (Art Major) is represented by nine weanlings in the catalogue. A dual Derby and Cup winner, he sold for AU\$130,000 as a yearling and retired as the fastest ever three-year-old in Australasia, recording 16 wins from 19 starts.

What The Hill, standing at Woodland's Stud has seven trotting weanlings on offer. The 12-time-winning son of the legendary Muscle Hill has accumulated \$1.3 million in stakes and served a quality book of over 100 mares in his first season in Australasia.



Downbytheseaside.



What The Hill.

Pacing Delights

A thoroughly deserving table-topper, Champion pacing stallion Bettor's Delight continues to deliver outstanding results, earning the title of Leading Pacing Sire for the eighth consecutive year. His phenomenal progeny include New Zealand Horse of the Year Spankem (NZ), Lazarus (NZ) and current young gun three-year-old Ultimate Sniper (NZ) as well as proving himself as a quality broodmare sire. Standing at Woodland's Stud, Bettor's Delight is represented by eight lots including two weanlings, one yearling plus five broodmares.

Standing at Alabar Farms, Art Major was the leading Three-Year-Old Sire in Australia for the 2018-19 season and in the Southern Hemisphere alone he sired 823 winners who earned over \$48.3 million. There are 10 Art Major progeny offered in the All Age Sale, seven of which are weanlings.

There are eighteen weanlings catalogued by successful Northern Hemisphere sire Sweet Lou and eight by the undefeated US Two-Year-Old Colt of the year He's Watching.

Emerging sire Always B Miki recorded over \$2.8 million on the track in an illustrious racing career, culminating a World Champion Pacer title. The 2020 All Age Sale will see his second crop on offer including three weanlings, with his first crop of yearlings recently selling at the 2020 National Standardbred Yearling Sale for an average of \$23,525.

Other pacing sires of note include A Rocknroll Dance (6), American Ideal (2), Auckland Reactor (2), Bettert-hanceddar (2), Rock N Roll Heaven (3), Shadow Play (2), Sportswriter (4) and Sunshine Beach (5).

Tasteful Trotters

Buyers will have the opportunity to secure bloodlines of trotting titan and leading Australian Sire Majestic Son. With career earnings peaking at just under \$2 million, the World Champion son of Angus Hall will offer five weanling lots on account of Alabar Farms.

Standing at Woodlands Stud, speedy trotter Pegasus Spur has just two lots catalogued in the Sale. The leading sire has gone on to produce progeny with outstanding track records including multiple Group One winners Speeding Spur (NZ) and Maori Time (NZ).

A Group winner in both hemispheres, Woodland's Stud stallion Peak has sired six lots, bringing an international flair to the All Age Sale catalogue.

Adding further appeal to the bloodstock that will be on offer, all weanlings offered at the All Age Sale to be held on gavelhouse.com, are eligible to be nominated for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million Sales Race Series.

Bidding opens on gavelhouse.com Standardbred from Wednesday 20 May with the first Lot closing on Wednesday 27 May at 5pm (NZT).

To get an early look at the catalogue including extensive photos and videos, view the 148 lots online [here](#).

HRNZ INDUSTRY UPDATE 20 APRIL

The ability for the racing codes to resume training and racing under Alert Level Three is contingent on meeting the requirements of various government departments (MPI, MBIE & WorkSafe). The process we are required to follow to establish this is consistent for all sectors. RITA is leading this engagement on behalf of the three racing codes and has been providing comprehensive information to government in advance of today's announcement.

The immediate priority, in discussions with officials, is to get agreement that there can be a full resumption of training under Alert Level Three, ideally from April 28. With the government's announcement today that the initial period of Alert Level Three will be for two weeks, it looks increasingly likely that the country will be under Alert Level Two by the time harness racing is scheduled to resume on May 29.

While racing is among a great number of industry sectors that are aiming to go through this process with government, we are confident that we are well prepared in terms of required measures, and through RITA we have already made good in-roads in consultation with appropriate government officials.

We are confident our industry is well placed to respond to the restrictions and requirements of each Alert Level and all three codes are currently doing everything we can to provide the government with the required confidence to allow us to get back up and running.

We appreciate there is desire for clear timelines, protocols and assurances. We are committed to providing this as soon as we possibly can. We have prepared a new Order and Direction, which outlines the protocols required for a resumption of full training under Alert Level Three. This will be issued as soon as we have sign-off from government.



Lady is a champ!

Shartin rewrites record books as horse of year
by Melissa Keith C/O Hoofbeats

Shartin N was the overwhelming choice as the 2019 Dan Patch Older Pacing Mare of the Year, Pacer of the Year and Horse of the Year for obvious reasons. The Jim King Jr. trainee picked up exactly where she left off the previous season when she also was honored as the sport's champion older female pacer and entered the history books as the only member of her division to earn more than \$1 million in a single season.

In 2019, the daughter of Tintin In America – Bagdarin came up just short of reaching the million-dollar mark again as she earned \$982,177 in 19 starts, 15 of which she won. She also became a world champion with a 1:46.4 triumph at The Meadowlands, is the first older female pacer to be named as Horse of the Year and was the first horse bred outside of North America to receive this honor. Shartin N is the fifth female pacer to be named as Horse of the Year and, unlike many of her predecessors, she didn't have to defeat the boys to do so.

Jo Ann Looney-King, the mare's co-owner with Richard Poillucci and Tim Tetrick LLC, often stated on social media there were never specific plans for the then 6-year-old to tackle that type of competition.

Nonetheless, Shartin N was voted No. 1 every week of last year's Hambletonian Society/Breeders Crown Weekly Top 10 Poll, indicating widespread respect for her accomplishments against her own sex and entries into the record books.

The mare collected 83 votes en route to being crowned as Horse of the Year. Bettor's Wish was second with 42 votes and Greenshoe third with 14.

Horse of the Year honors have traditionally rewarded performers who demonstrated absolute dominance over their peers, but only in the divisions where competition was already regarded as strong. For this reason, the title has usually been awarded to a 3-year-old male trotter or pacer, or an older male of either gait.

Interestingly, in all but one instance where a female trotter was named U.S. Horse of the Year, it was a filly or mare who was tested outside her division who triumphed. The USTA's Trotting and Pacing Guide lists every annual winner since 1947, and adventurous female trotters have fared well in the year-end tally.

The first mare to be named Horse of the Year was the 8-year-old Proximity in 1950. She retired at the end of that season as the richest trotter of all time and collected \$252,929 in purse money for her owners, Ralph and Gordon Verhurst. It was a two-vote win margin for the filly Stenographer over Scott Frost for the 1954 Horse of the Year title. Voters expressed a slight preference for the filly who set a world record at 3 and defeated males. Scott Frost, however, was Horse of the Year in 1955 and 1956, and was the first horse to win the trotting Triple Crown.

Emily's Pride (1958) was also a world champion at 3, the same year she won the Hambletonian and Kentucky Futurity. Ironically, she edged out the first older female pacer capable of capturing overall Horse of the Year honors in the remarkable Belle Acton. But Emily's Pride retired that season as the fastest 3-year-old trotter in history and her Kentucky Futurity was the first race in the history of the sport to have three sub-2:00 heats.

Belle Acton made history from her career debut. She was voted 2-Year-Old Pacer of the Year for 1955, because no separate filly division existed until 1978. In 1958, she was named Older Pacer of the Year, again because there was no distaff category prior to 1968. No other female pacer earned older pacing divisional titles in the years when this was possible.

The first filly to win a leg of the Pacing Triple Crown (the 1956 Messenger Stake), Belle Acton also fittingly earned her titles in seasons in which she beat both sexes.

Roosevelt International Trot champions Fresh Yankee (1970) and Delmonica Hanover (1974) earned Horse of the Year titles based on campaigns punctuated by conquests against the world's best trotters.

Fan Hanover (1981) broke barriers in becoming the lone filly to win the Little Brown Jug, and subsequently, the first female pacer to be voted overall Horse of the Year. She was also Canada's Horse of the Year in 1980.

While filly and mare trotters would continue to be well-represented in Dan Patch Horse of the Year titles—Fancy Crown (1984), CR Kay Suzie (1995), Continental-victory (1996), Moni Maker (1998, 1999), Bee A Magician (2013) and Hannelore Hanover (2017)—only three filly pacers would follow in Fan Hanover's hoofprints in winning the sport's top annual honor.

Bunny Lake (2001) and Rainbow Blue (2004) raced only against other fillies but orchestrated nearly flawless sophomore seasons.

JK She'salady (2014) stayed within her age/sex group and became the first-ever 2-year-old pacing filly to claim the crown, beating Sweet Lou, 57 to 52. In another historic first, she became the lone Horse of the Year pacer not named Pacer of the Year, as Sweet Lou had one vote more in a tight 74-73 decision.

Staying within the ranks of solely female competition only amplified how dominant Bunny Lake, Rainbow Blue and JK She'salady were within their own respective groups on the racetrack.

Taking a risk, however, can come at a price: Miss Easy, 1991 3-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year, was not named Pacer or Horse of the Year. She broke in her Meadowlands Pace elimination, which was captured by Precious Bunny, but went on to win the Meadowlands Pace consolation over Cambest, while Precious Bunny boosted his 1991 Horse of the Year credentials by winning the Pace final.





Sharin N and her connections celebrate winning the Lady Liberty where she broke the miel record for mares!

That year Ellamony became the first older mare pacer to be named as Canada's Horse of the Year.

These ambitious campaigns outside of the mares-only ranks have resonated with Dan Patch Award voters, although never sufficiently to elevate an older female pacer to Horse of the Year status until Shartin N in 2019. Consider that all but one distaff trotter, Bee A Magician, faced top males and beat them in Grand Circuit races during her Horse of the Year season. It can be argued that no female pacer in recent years has shown that kind of divisional transcendence, although a few have made a strong showing.

In 1992, three-time Dan Patch Pacing Mare of the Year (1992, 1993, 1994) Shady Daisy put Artsplace to the test in a 1:50 event at The Meadowlands when she finished second to the eventual Horse of the Year, and was second to Odds Against in the U.S. Pacing Championship at Sportsman's Park.

In 1993, the mare was second to Cambest in Northfield Park's Battle of Lake Erie. In 1994, she finished third in the Freehold Cup (won by 1994 Pacing Horse of the Year Arrive At Five) and the Graduate final (won by Silent Spring) at Freehold Raceway, in a season marred by her own breaks.

Eternal Camnation was Canadian Horse of the Year for 2003 and captured three Dan Patch titles as Pacing Mare of the Year (2001, 2002, 2003). The richest-ever female pacer's \$3,748,574 earnings record still stands today, yet she was never voted U.S. Horse of the Year. Her few starts against top-tier males did not enhance her resume or bankroll.

Dreamfair Eternal, 2010 O'Brien Horse of the Year, was 2010 Dan Patch Older Pacing Mare of the Year. She did defeat Lucky Man in a 1:50.2 Woodbine Open that season, but her campaign was otherwise restricted to distaff company.

The top female pacer in 2017 was Pure Country, who won the fastest qualifier of all time that July 1, defeating Filibuster Hanover in 1:48 flat over The Meadowlands. In her Dan Patch Award-winning sophomore year, she finished second to Betting Line in Northfield Park's Carl Milstein Memorial and was fourth when supplemented to the Cane Pace.

As owner Adam Bowden of Diamond Creek Farms told Hoof Beats of the three-time Award winning (2015, 2016, 2017) U.S. divisional champion, "It's nothing to be upset about, by any means. Because she's a homebred and because she's a mare, it was worth taking a chance."

When speaking of taking chances, it's tough to imagine Shartin N struggling in mixed competition, because she's been down that road before. Prior to export, she won the 2017 Queensland Oaks and finished second by a head to the colt The More The Better N in the 2017 Queensland Derby. She won seven of 13 Australian starts, three of them against males, including overall Victorian Harness Horse of the Year Jilliby Kung Fu.

Shartin N was invited to last year's Dan Patch Invitational at Hoosier Park, but co-owner Looney-King stated in an interview with Harness Racing Update the race followed too soon on the heels of her world record victory (1:46.4) in the Lady Liberty at The Meadowlands.

Late-season losses to Caviart Ally in the TVG final and Breeders Crown didn't affect the division-leading star's standing in Dan Patch Award voting results for pacing mares, as she received 145 of 147 total votes.

But are older pacing mares held to a unique standard when it comes to being selected Horse of the Year in the U.S.? Not anymore.

Melissa Keith is a freelance writer living in Nova Scotia. To comment on this story, email us at readerforum@ustrotting.com.





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Feeding Advice from Dunstan!

Dunstan Horse Feeds

This week we chat to Sarah Mullen, our Territory Manager in the Upper South Island Region, about the benefits of feeding Dunstan Extruded Rice.

Days are getting shorter, nights are getting colder. Are your horses ready for winter?

During winter horses tend to lose weight due to cooler temperatures and the increased calories burned to stay warm.

It's important to now start thinking about your horses body condition before winter. Are they in good condition to maintain a healthy weight during winter? Older, injured horses and any horse with underlying health concerns need to be monitored closely. Getting prepared early!

Are they getting enough forage? Remembering a horse needs a minimum of 1.5% of their body weight in fibre daily on a dry matter basis. This can be hay, pasture, beet or ensiled products.

If fibre requirements are well satisfied but horses are struggling to achieve desired body condition on their current supplementary feed intakes the addition of the calorie dense supplement Dunstan Extruded Rice could be just what is required!

Dunstan Extruded Rice will assist in achieving desired weight gains as well as developing topline and muscle development, due to the inclusion of gamma oryzanol from Rice Bran Oil. The addition of Rice Bran oil also assists to further increase the energy contribution from Dunstan Extruded Rice.

Did you know.. Extruded Rice with Rice Bran Oil is highly digestible providing a safe way to feed a calorie dense grain and reducing the risk of escaped starch in to the hind gut which may lead to digestive upsets.

As Dunstan Extruded Rice does not include added vitamins and minerals it is ideal to feed alongside a well-balanced complete feed if further calories are required. Alternatively it can be fed in conjunction with a vitamin and mineral balancer pellet like Dunstan Multi-Ultra (Horses - 500grams / Ponies - 200-400grams).

Tips to takeaway ..Now's the time to make yourself familiar with a body scoring chart and be sure to regularly take covers off during winter to check your horses condition. Also while we find ourselves with a little more time on our hands, due to the current situation, it's a good opportunity to grab some scales and weigh your horses daily feeds.

Extruded Rice feeding rate: 0.5kg - 1.5kg, horse's full diet needs to be taken into consideration when working out your individual requirements.

To discuss further don't hesitate to contact your local Territory Manager or find out more on Dunstan Extruded Rice here! <https://buff.ly/2Kq2sO0>



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